

REMARKS

Claims 3-7,11,12, 15-33 are pending in this application. Claims 1,2, 8-10, 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 22-33 have been newly added. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claim 15 has been allowed and claims 3-7, 11 and 17 have been merely objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable.

Claims 3 has been amended into independent form to overcome the objection along with the following amendments: “wherein an auxiliary electrode is provided around ~~said~~ each of said segment ~~electrode~~ electrodes on said first substrate with a slight gap intervening between said segment electrode and said auxiliary electrode, ~~said auxiliary electrode is formed of same transparent conductive film as that of said segment electrodes,~~” and “wherein said auxiliary electrode is provided with a slight gap intervening also between said auxiliary electrode and said wiring electrode, ~~said auxiliary electrode, said segment electrodes and said wiring electrodes are formed of same transparent conductive film,~~ and overlaps between said opposite electrode and said wiring electrodes also form said background area.”

Claim 11 has been modified from the original independent form by amending the following portions: “wherein an auxiliary electrode ~~made of a transparent conductive film~~ is provided between said each segment electrode and around said segment electrodes on said first substrate to overlap peripheral portions

of said segment electrodes, and said auxiliary electrode is electrically insulated from said each segment electrode by a transparent insulating film which is provided between said auxiliary electrode and said segment electrode.”

Claim 17 has been modified from the original independent form by amending the following portions: “an auxiliary electrode is provided around said each of said segment electrode electrodes on said first substrate ~~with a slight gap intervening between said segment electrode and said auxiliary electrode, said auxiliary electrode is formed of same transparent conductive film as that of said segment electrodes,~~” and “~~wherein said auxiliary electrode is provided with a slight gap intervening also between said auxiliary electrode and said wiring electrode, said auxiliary electrode, said segment electrodes and said wiring electrodes are formed of same transparent conductive film, and overlaps between said opposite electrode and said wiring electrodes also form said background area.~~”

Objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claims 10, 12 and 18 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claim 10 has been canceled, thereby making the objection moot. Claim 12 and 18 have been amended to overcome the objection.

Rejections under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements.

Claim 16 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 2, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Shioji '476 (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,476).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 has been canceled and claim 3 has been rewritten into independent form. Also, claims 20 and 21 have been amended to indirectly depend from claim 3. Because claim 3 has been indicated allowable, the amendment would place the rejected claims in condition for allowance.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by JP '817 (JP 55-89817).

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection has become moot, and should be withdrawn.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Waldron (U.S. Patent No. 4,277,786).

Claim 13 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection has become moot, and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Shioji '476 in view of Tani et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,095,217), Waldron, and JP '211 (JP 55-011211).

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Waldron.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 16, 18 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 3, which has been indicated allowable. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection has become moot, and should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



Sadao Kinashi
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 48,075

SK/fs
Atty. Docket No. **011231**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

H:\HOME\fsakai\amendment\011231